



## Section 1 Introduction

### 2005 Mobilization Plan

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The Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan, herein referred to as the Plan, provides a mechanism for fire service resources to respond to fires, disasters, or other events that meet the intent of the Mobilization Plan Legislation (**RCW 43.43.961**).

The Plan was formalized in 1993 after the 1991 Spokane "Firestorm". Since its inception it has become a living document, with eight updates completed. Each update is a result of lessons learned by the fire service involvement primarily in wildland/urban interface fires. The Fire Defense Committee is enhancing the plan for all risk events in this update.

The Plan utilizes primarily fire service resources within Washington State. However, resources such as a Washington State Integrated Incident Management Teams can be used for the management of an incident.



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The Plan is developed in support of **Title 43.43 RCW**, State Fire Service Mobilization. The following statutes seek (or address) consistency in implementation:

- ❑ **Title 38.52 RCW**, governing Emergency Management;

Assists in:

- State Emergency Operations Center activation
- Mobilization of Military assets
- Mobilization of other resources

- ❑ **Title 43.43 RCW**, governing the Washington State Patrol (WSP);

By statute:

- Authorize mobilizations
- Locates, tracks and dispatches resources to an incident
- Provides a reimbursement mechanism

- ❑ **Title 76.04 RCW**, governing the Department of Natural Resources (DNR);

Authority to protect lands under DNR authority:

- Use as mutual aid partner

- ❑ **Title 35 RCW**, governing cities and towns;

- ❑ **Title 52 RCW**, governing fire protection districts.



## **Section 2 Authority**

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The purpose of the Plan is to provide a process to quickly notify, assemble, and deploy fire service personnel and equipment to any local fire jurisdiction in the state that has expended or will expend all available local and mutual aid resources in attempting to manage fires, disasters or other events that jeopardize the ability of a jurisdiction and/or region to provide for the protection of life and property.

The Plan is “all risk”, i.e., it is to be used to provide fire service resources in Washington State for fires, disasters, or other events where they are needed to protect life and property.

The Plan:

- Describes the state and regional organizations, the resources, and the process for the mobilization of resources in Washington State in response to fires, disasters, or other events that have exceeded the capabilities or capacity of local and mutual aid fire service resources.
- Serves as an educational tool for all fire service and other emergency response personnel to familiarize them with the state and regional fire service resources mobilization system.
- Sets forth the procedures providing reimbursement to the Washington Fire Service for eligible costs incurred while mobilized.

History of the Plan:

In 1992, in the wake of the October 1991 Spokane Fire Storm, the Washington State Legislature directed the creation of a Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan. The State Fire Defense Board (now the State Fire Defense Committee of the State Fire Protection Policy Board) was formed with representatives from nine regions across the state to develop and recommend adoption of the Plan to the State Fire Protection Policy Board for inclusion in the state Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). This Plan is an appendix to ESF-4 (Firefighting) of the CEMP.

The first formal adoption and approval of the Plan was completed in July 1994, only a few days before the major mobilization to Chelan County for the Tyee and Leavenworth Fire Complexes. The Plan proved effective in meeting the operational and financial demands of the Chelan County mobilization (which incidentally brought to light deficiencies in the Plan).

The Fire Defense Committee continues today with members from the Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington State Patrol, Washington Emergency Management and the Washington Fire Service.

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## Section 4

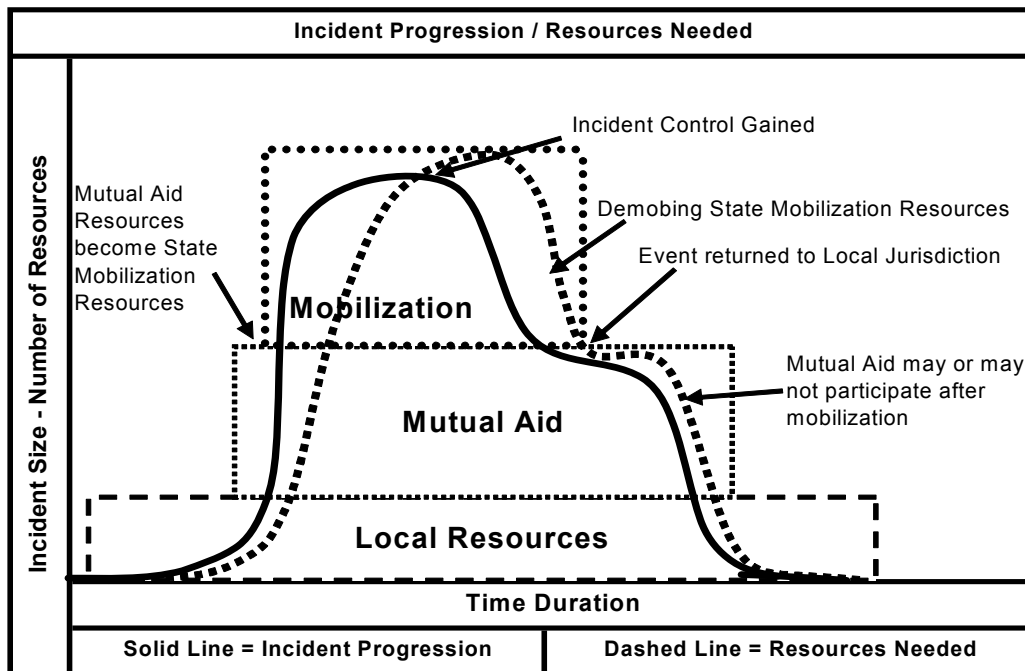
### State Fire Resources

#### Mobilization Stages and Responsibility

#### 2005 Mobilization Plan

The graph below reflects a developing incident starting with:

- Local Jurisdiction Response.
- Mutual Aid Resource Response.
- State Mobilization Resource Response, Incident Control Gained.
- Demobilization and Return of Incident to Local Jurisdiction.



The local jurisdiction responds utilizing Local Resources ( — — ). This jurisdiction will remain involved in the event through its duration, regardless of its magnitude. If the event is within the capabilities of the local jurisdiction, it will be handled by that jurisdiction exclusively. (**Section 8; Roles and Responsibilities – Local Jurisdictions.**)

Mutual aid is invoked when a local jurisdiction cannot contain or control an incident using its own resources. Mutual aid resources ( ······· ) will augment the local jurisdiction according to mutual aid agreements. (**Section 5; Mutual Aid.**)

In most situations, mutual aid resources when combined with the other local assets can achieve incident stabilization and control. If the event overwhelms available local and mutual aid resources, mobilization can be requested. (**Section 6; Requesting State Mobilization.**)

State Mobilization ( ······· ), when authorized, represents the mobilization of fire service resources across the state. Once approved, all local and mutual aid resources utilized at the incident become part of the mobilization process and are reimbursed as a result of State Mobilization. (**Sections 8, 9, 10; Roles and Responsibilities, Local Jurisdictions, Fire Defense Regions and State Agencies**)



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## Section 5 Mutual Aid Requirements

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The Plan provides for State Mobilization when a local fire jurisdiction and/or region has expended, or will expend, all available local and mutual aid resources in attempting to manage fires, disasters, or other events that jeopardize the ability of a jurisdiction and/or region to provide for the protection of life and property.

#### **State mobilization is not a replacement for local mutual aid.**

Mutual aid agreements provide for rapid assistance from neighboring fire jurisdictions to meet the immediate requirements of an emergency situation demanding resources beyond those available from the local jurisdiction. Rapid intervention by mutual aid resources can secure control over an emergency incident that may otherwise continue to escalate.

Mutual aid is an essential element of local fire protection.

- All local fire protection jurisdictions are encouraged to participate in mutual aid agreements.
- Regional mutual aid agreements are encouraged.
- At a minimum, mutual aid agreements should encompass all adjacent fire jurisdictions, including those in other counties, regions, or states as applicable.

#### **Provisions of Statute**

“Mobilization” means that fire-fighting resources beyond those available through existing agreements will be requested and, when available, sent in response to an emergency or disaster situation that has exceeded the capabilities of available local resources. During a large-scale emergency, mobilization includes the redistribution of regional or statewide fire fighting resources to either direct emergency incident assignments or to assignment in communities where fire-fighting resources are needed (**RCW 43.43.960**; emphasis added)

- **“Assignment in communities where fire fighting resources are needed”**  
“Assignment in communities where fire fighting resources are needed” is a provision intended to allow for area or regional redistribution of resources to maintain minimum community fire protection and optimal utilization of local and regional resources at the emergency incident (taking advantage of local apparatus capabilities, local personnel training and experience, and local community resource commitment.) An Incident Commander, Area Commander, or State Fire Marshal may assign available mobilized resources to achieve basic minimum local fire protection in communities that are under protected because of their deep commitment of resources to the major emergency incident(s). The concept is one of wider and deeper move-up of fire resources, and by doing this, resources are assigned as required to both incident and coverage needs. This provision is not to be construed as authorization for backfill apparatus except as it may make critical or specially qualified resources available for mobilization.
- This Plan is intended to serve as a written Statewide Mutual Aid Plan, which allows for reimbursement and compensation of responding jurisdictions anytime mobilization is authorized.



## **Section 5**

### **Mutual Aid Requirements**

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